LIMEHURST

Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S INTERIM REPORT 1945.

Thornley & Carrington, Printers, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29732384

Rural District

of

LIMEHURST

INTERIM REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1945

and

THE REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year 1945

Limehurst Rural District Council

1945-46.

Members of the Council: Parish.

Councillor S. HOWARD, J.P., **Chairman** ..... Waterloo

„ **E. COLLINGE, Vice-Chairman** ..... Bardsley

„ **J. COOPER,** J.P. ..... Woodhouses

„ **T. OLLERENSHAW** ..... Waterloo

„ **F. CLOUGH** (to June, 1945) ..... Alt

„ **J. J. CRESSWELL** ..... Littlemoss

„ **E. SCOTT** (From October, 1945) ..... Alt

Officials:

E. H. RATCLIFFE, H.C.A. ..... Clerk to the Council

H. BOARDMAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (to April, 1945)
Medical Officer of Health

B. BOWMAN, M.B., Ch.B. (from September, 1945)
Medical Officer of Health

W. DAWSON, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. ..... Sanitary Inspector

A. FISHER, M.INST., M. AND CY.E. ..... Surveyor

A. HOWSON, A.R.V.A. ..... Rating Officer

H. E. TURNER, F.S.I. ..... Valuation Officer (part time)

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector.

INTERIM REPORT.

Council Offices,

200, Oldham Road, Waterloo,

Nr. Ashton-under-Lyne,

September, 1946.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS.

of the

Limehurst Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health I have the honour to submit for your consideration an Interim Report on the health of the district during the year ending 31st December, 1945.

I should like to offer my sincere thanks to the ladies who have attended the Child Welfare Centre and have voluntarily tendered such valuable assistance each week.

My predecessor, Dr. Boardman, was Medical Officer of Health during the first quarter of the year under review. Some part, therefore, of the statistics and information forming this report have been prepared from records made during his term of office.

To Members of the Council and the Officials I tender my thanks for their assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

B. BOWMAN,

Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

AREA, POPULATION, AND RATEABLE VALUE.

PARISH	AREAS IN ACRES	No. of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value £	Product 1d. Rate £
Alt	1,132·724	270	3,279	12
Bardsley	883·076	545	7,165	27
Littlemoss ...	703·802	204	3,000	11
Waterloo	341·139	1,233	14,709	56
Woodhouses...	627·545	233	2,534	8
Totals...	3,688·286	2,485	30,687	114

Population at 1931 Census (excluding Hartshead) ... 8,151

Population 1945 7,100

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Generally the number of notifiable diseases was again small and a decrease in the incidence of measles was noted. The number of cases of diphtheria was ten, none of which proved fatal. No notifications of cerebro spinal fever were received during the year.

Three cases of scarlet fever, ten of diphtheria, one of whooping cough and one case for observation were admitted to hospital as follows:—

Oldham (Westhulme) ..... 14 cases.

Hyde ..... 1 case.

Ambulance facilities in each case were provided by the Hospital admitting the patient.

There has been no change from previous years with regard to Hospital accommodation and ambulance facilities for both infectious and non-infectious cases.

With regard to non-infectious cases, Oldham Ambulance serves four parishes and Ashton-under-Lyne Ambulance, one parish.

This arrangement provides an adequate Ambulance Service for the whole District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1945.

Notified cases only included.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED YEARS												Total Deaths (the figures in this column agree with those supplied by the Registrar General).	Hospital. — Total Cases removed to Hospital from the District.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—1	10—15	15—2	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over			
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	7	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Diphtheria, including Membraneous Croup ...	10	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia / Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	2	—	1	—		—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis-Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	33	4	6	8	4	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	15	1	3	3	3	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Notifiable diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	72	6	10	11	7	9	16	6	3	1	2	1	—	1	15	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								
1—5								
5—10				1				
10—15		1	1					
15—20								
20—25				1				
25—35		2			1	1		
35—45						3		
45—55	1				2			
55—65	1				1			
65 and over				1				1
	2	3	1	3	4	4	0	1
	5		4		8		1	

With one exception, proper notification, prior to death, was received in each case of death from tuberculosis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Scheme for immunisation against diphtheria has been in operation throughout the year.

Sessions have been held regularly at the Immunisation Clinic during the year, and a total of 52 children have been immunised. The Clinic is held at the Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo.

Details are as follows:

No. of children immunised during year.		Prophylactics used.
(a) Pre-school children	46	A.P.T.
(b) Schoolchildren	6	T.A.F.

The return to the Ministry of Health showing the total number of children immunised from the commencement of the scheme in January, 1941, to the end of December, 1945, is as follows:—

Children 0 to 5	—	178.
Children 5 to 15	—	397.
Children now over 15	—	126 immunised.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

There are no school clinics in the district but facilities are available for school children at the County Clinic, Post Office Buildings, Royton. Detailed plans for the erection of a School Clinic in the Rural District were well advanced but had to be postponed owing to the war.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A welfare centre administered by the Lancashire County Council at the Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo, is now held every Thursday afternoon.

MIDWIVES' ACT, 1936.

The midwife allocated to the Rural District is Mrs. A. Harrop, S.C.M., S.R.N., residing at 5, Ney Street, Waterloo. Tel. ASH. 2033.

WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE.

A survey of water supplies and sewerage has been made during the year.

2,441 houses are supplied by public mains and have a tap inside the house. 44 houses depend on wells or other private sources of supply. Two small schemes to deal with 40 of these houses are being prepared for submission to the Council.

Two parishes (Waterloo and Bardsley, 1,778 houses) are sewered. Three parishes (Alt, Littlemoss and Woodhouses, 707 houses) are without public sewers. The possibility of coupling 132 houses in Alt parish to existing sewers in the area of another Local Authority is being investigated.

BYELAWS.

Building Byelaws under the Public Health Act, 1936, are in force in the district.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

The Council is a Constituent Authority of the Oldham and District Statutory Regional Planning Committee.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1. **Inspections,** for the purposes of provisions as to health, including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspeetions)2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories with mechanical power	39	3	—
Factories (without mechanical power	27	—	—
Other premises under the Act ... (including works of building and engineertng constrnction, but not including outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—
Total	66	3	—

2. **Defects Found.**

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)—				
insufficient	—	—	—	—
unsuitable or defective	13	13	—	—
not separate for sexes...	—	—	—	—
Other offences ... ... Not including offences relating to home work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule of the Factories Act. 1937.)	3	3	—	—
Total	16	16		

No returns in Outworkers' Section.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

LIMEHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Annual Report on sanitary conditions in the area and progress made during the year.

During the year a survey of the position with regard to water supplies and sewerage has taken place.

With regard to foodstuffs, the standard of milk produced in the district has remained good, whilst meat and other foodstuffs consumed in the area have not given rise to any difficulties.

The Council have given much attention to the problem of housing and particularly the erection of new houses; details appear on another page.

The difficulties of maintenance work on existing houses have continued and only urgent work can be dealt with, as a rule.

I would like to express my thanks to all Members and Officials of the Council for their continued help and valuable assistance.

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

W. DAWSON, Sanitary Inspector.

Notices Served—Nuisance and Sanitary Defects.

No. of Informal Notices served during 1945 (concerning 221 houses)	141
No. of same complied with during 1945 (concerning 199 houses)	127
Note.—A number of Notices in the form of letters were delivered in addition to the above.	
No. of Statutory Notices served (for 1 house) ...	1
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	1
No. of Legal Proceedings authorised	Nil
No. of Legal Proceedings taken	Nil

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Total number of notifiable diseases recorded during the year 72

A tabulated statement is given on pages 5 and 6.

Number of premises disinfected (houses) 28

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council now undertake the Scavenging of all parishes within the Rural District, Alt being added in 1940. Since scavenging is a service fundamental in character and an absolute necessity to a healthy environment, every effort has been made to maintain an adequate service. The standard and regularity of collection has been reasonably satisfactory despite the many present day difficulties.

The Council's scheme to purchase dustbins and pails, in quantities for re-sale to owners and occupiers in the district, necessitated by the absence of such articles in the ordinary trade channels, has been continued throughout the year. The demand has always been greater than the supply but it has been possible, by careful selection, to supply those in greatest need first. The scheme commenced in 1941 and since that date 261 dustbins and 158 pails have been supplied.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, DRAINAGE, &c.

A tabulated statement follows of the totals of the various sanitary conveniences in the five parishes. During the year the following conversions have been carried out.

1 Privy cesspit converted to a pail closet.

2 Privy cesspits closets abolished.

5 Waste water closets converted to water closets.

1 Additional water closet provided.

17 Dustbins provided in lieu of ashpits, etc.

The following is a list of recorded improvements, renewals, &c.

17 Entirely new Dustbins provided.
52 Dustbins renewed.
3 Privy Closets abolished.
9 Dry Ashpits and ground pits abolished.
50 Closet Pails provided, including renewals and conversions.
28 Premises where water closets were repaired.
7 Premises where drains were entirely reconstructed.
5 Premises where new branch drains were laid.
9 Premises (other than the above) where existing drains were repaired.
26 Drain blockages cleared.

The closet accommodation for 1,914 houses is on the water carriage system.

The number of dustbins now to be emptied in the whole district is 2,205 as against 171 in 1922.

Virtually all the 588 pail closets and the 26 privy closets are remote from the public sewer and the question of converting these to water closets is bound up with the larger problem of the provision of sewers and sewerage facilities to the unsewered parts of the district.

There are 497 waste water closets in the district. It is generally agreed that this type of convenience should be abolished at the first opportunity and replaced by fresh water closets. No important technical problem is involved in this matter, the only real difficulty is one of finance.

There should be no difficulty in abolishing the 95 ashpits when supplies of dustbins are readily available.

TABULATED RECORD OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1945

PARISH	Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Galv'd Bins	Middens	Closets	Cesspits	Closets	Ashpits	Tubs, Boxes, etc.
Alt	79	22	197	226	6	11	6	6	0	1
Bardsley ...	382	202	28	464	3	4	1	1	21	4
Littlemoss ...	121	10	127	187	2	2	—	—	7	0
Waterloo ...	1056	262	3	1104	—	—	—	—	67	6
Woodhouses	30	1	233	224	1	1	1	1	0	4
Totals ...	1668	497	588	2205	12	18	8	8	95	15

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

No public slaughterhouse is established in the district. There are four private slaughterhouses, one in Bardsley and three in Waterloo.

In January, 1940, private slaughtering ceased, all slaughtering being subject to Government control from this date. No Government slaughterhouse was established in Limehurst.

A constant watch is kept on foodstuffs, including meat, coming into the shops in the district.

During the year 11 inspections have been made at slaughterhouses where permits have been given for slaughtering to take place.

The following foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption and have been dealt with as directed by the Government.

> 15 lbs. margarine, 9 lbs. bacon, 64 tins foodstuffs, organs of 1 pig and 1 cow.

Places where foodstuffs are prepared, sold or stored are subject to regular inspection. It has not been necessary to institute any legal proceedings.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 64 dairy farms in the District in the occupation of 62 cowkeepers all of whom are on the register. The total number of cows kept is 1,420.

In addition to the 62 cowkeepers who are also dairymen with registered dairy premises, there are seven resident dairy men and retail purveyors of milk with registered premises. These are not cowkeepers but buy milk in bulk and retail in the district.

Finally, there are 55 firms and persons registered as dairymen and retail purveyors who have no dairy premises in the Rural District.

Fees for the sale of Pasteurised Milk have been paid by three dairy firms this year.

Nine resident dairymen and cowkeepers are licensed by the Lancashire County Council as producers of " Accredited Milk." Three of these producers are also licenced for bottling.

Altogether 72 samples of milk have been taken. These include a number taken on the request of the Lancashire County Council. 31 samples were taken for examination for tubercle bacillus; 41 for the Methylene Blue test and for the presence of B. Coli. Results were as follows:

Tubercle Bacillus.

Samples submitted for the biological test.

No. Submitted.	No. Negative.	No. Positive.
31	29	2

Methylene Blue and B. Coli test.

No. Submitted.	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
41	33	8

Note.—The standard adopted in classification of the above was the " Accredited " standard.

Structural improvements have taken place at 5 farms, including one new five-cow shippon and two new dairies.

WATER SUPPLIES.

All but 44 of the houses in the Rural District are supplied from public mains, the majority from the mains of the Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Stalybridge and District Waterworks whilst a small number are fed from the Oldham Corporation Waterworks mains. The water from both these sources is satisfactory in both quantity and quality. No bacteriological or chemical examinations have been made by the Rural District during the year, such examination being made by the Undertakers. There has been no evidence of plumbo-solvent action and no samples have been taken by the Rural District Council.

The number of houses supplied direct from public mains is 2,441.

Number of houses supplied from stand-pipes is nil.

The population supplied direct from public mains is 6,952.

44 houses are without public mains supply and two Schemes to deal with 40 of these are being prepared.

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

The total number of dwelling houses in the District at the end of 194 5 is 2,485, mostly of the working class type.

No new houses have been erected during the year.

Repairs have been recorded at existing houses in 194 instances in 1945. This figure does not include sanitary repairs or improvements which are listed on an earlier page.

Definite steps towards the provision of new houses have been taken by the Council during the year. A review of the needs of the District and proposals for a housing site have been made, and preparatory work concerning the site has taken place.

On the 11th September the Council by resolution made a Compulsory Purchase Order for a site for approximately 130 houses in the Waterloo parish and this has been confirmed by the Ministry of Health. Preparation of the site with regard to roads, sewers and other services was in an advanced state of planning at the end of the year.

A review of existing houses has shown that 70 per cent. are of the two bedroomed type. In the light of this information a bias towards three bedroomed houses will be observed when the new houses are built.

The number of applicants for new houses is 353. Young married couples living with parents are the chief cause of the need for houses, and, in a lesser degree, fairly large families living in two bedroomed houses.

There has been little change in regard to repair work at existing houses. The shortages of materials and labour still exist and again it has been very difficult to get essential repairs carried out. All serious defects reported during the year have been dealt with.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Two cases of infestation of bed bugs have been dealt with. In one instance treatment with " Zaldecide " was used with good results, whilst in the other case thorough cleansing without the use of any specific insecticide was carried out.

OVERCROWDING.

Only by a re-survey could the exact position be correctly ascertained, but it is not thought that much gross overcrowding exists. An important matter is the number of young couples who have married during the war and now live at one or other of the parent's houses. This problem can only be solved by new building.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Sixty-nine visits have been made to shops in the district. No action was necessary with regard to Offices.

RODENT CONTROL.

Since February, 1944, the Council have been responsible for the work under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919. The powers were delegated by the Lancashire County Council.

The Council has one trained Rodent Operative on a part-time basis and the work is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector. Last year the whole of the sewers were specially treated, on two occasions, for rats with good results. The decrease in infestations of surface premises has justified this work.

This year considerable attention has been given to surface infestations. Several poisoning campaigns have been carried out and many premises cleared by occupiers on advice from this Department. Over a hundred inspectorial visits have been made in addition to the work of the Rodent Operative.